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Financial Reform Assoc. (Liverpool, England)

To the "untaxed" working man

Liverpool

[18--]

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MASTER NEGATIVE #

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▶   1  040     PR1 ǂc PR1 ¶
▶   2  007     h ǂb d ǂd a ǂe f ǂf a--- ǂg b ǂh a ǂi c ǂj p ¶
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▶   5  049     PR1A ¶
▶   6  110 2   Financial Reform Association (Liverpool, England) ¶
▶   7  245 10  To the "untaxed" working man ǂh [microform]. ¶
▶   8  260     Liverpool : ǂb Financial Reform Association, ǂc [18--] ¶
▶   9  300     1 sheet ; ǂc 21 cm. ¶
▶  10  533     Microfilm. ǂb New York, N.Y. : ǂc Columbia University Libraries,
ǂd to be filmed in 1998. ǂe 1 microfilm reel ; 35 mm. ¶
▶  11  583     Filmed; ǂf NEH Project (FMEST); ǂc 1998 ¶
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TECHNICAL MICROFORM DATA

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TO THE "UNTAXED" WORKING MAN.

You consider yourself fortunate in the matter of Taxation; and you are indignant at the bare idea of having to pay some two, or three shillings a week, money down, to the State. Let us see how the matter stands at present. You are never visited by the taxgatherer. You are earning, on the average, say five and twenty shillings a week, and have a wife and three children. Your weekly expenses may include the following items, on which you pay the annexed duties, and charges for interest and risk of capital advanced in payment of duties:

	DUTY AND CHARGES THEREON.				
Tea, ¼ lb.	0	5½	Beer, 4 quarts	0	6½
Sugar, 3 lbs.	0	6	Tobacco, 4 oz.	0	9½
Coffee, 1 lb.	0	4⅓			
Currants, 1 lb.	0	2¾		2s.	10¾d.

The extra charges on these six articles alone amount, you see, to 2s. 10¾d. per week, or £7 10s. 7d a year. Yet you fancy that you are untaxed!

You will probably use a little arrowroot, sago, tapioca, or pearl barley. The duty on these articles is very low, only 4½d per cwt, or nine-fifty-sixths of a farthing per lb; but as there is no such coin, and as the dealer cannot afford to make you a present of the imaginary fraction, he will charge you a farthing, or about six times the amount of the duty.

You use other articles, such as bread, butter, cheese, bacon, flour, eggs, soap, &c., &c. To show the exact proportion of duty which you pay on these items, as well as on apparel for yourself and family, would require a large array of figures, since there are numerous Customs and Excise duties, which, though not obviously, yet too surely, affect the price of each article you use, consume, or wear. The increased price which you have to pay from this cause, is certainly not less than the increased price you are paying for those specified above, and this increase adds another sum of £7 10s. 7d. to your taxation.

So that you, who are told that you are not taxed, and are simple enough to believe, and to applaud those who tell you so, are absolutely paying 5s. 9½d. a week, or £15 1s. 2d. a year, in taxes,—being more than one-sixth part of your earnings: more than two-pence out of your every shilling.

The above is but a low estimate of what you, and the rest of the untaxed, as you are called, are paying through indirect taxation, or, in other words, through Customs and Excise duties. High authorities on this subject calculate that, in point of fact, you pay, as matters are now managed, no less than threepence halfpenny out of every hard-earned shilling.

Insist, then, upon having the tax-gatherer. With direct taxation you run no risk of being over-taxed. It is indirect taxation that enables your rulers to shear you to the quick. If threepence, or even twopence, out of every laboriously got shilling were openly demanded of the working men of this country, would you, the workers, pay the tax as quietly as you do now? No: you would to a man button up your breeches pockets. Your rulers know this well, and by means of indirect taxation dip their hands into them at pleasure.

Reform of Taxation is the Reform Bill which you should call for. Don't let your earnings be meddled with without knowing the why and wherefore; without knowing exactly, and to a farthing, what you have to pay. Indirect taxation is neither more nor less than thimble-rigging. Exercise your privilege as free men, of meeting together, pulling together. Demand from your representatives, petition Parliament for—Direct Taxation. Property will then bear its fair share of taxation; whereas you, the working bees of the community, are now, through indirect taxation, cheated into paying the lion's share. You live by the sweat of your brows, and yet are paying for drones and idlers. In justice to your families, in mercy to yourselves, save your pockets, and call for the taxgatherer.

S.

Issued by the Financial Reform Association,
46, CHURCH STREET, LIVERPOOL.

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